

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PRIORITY

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TAGS: PARM, SOPN

SUBJECT: JUNE 21 ROUNDUP: PRESS ITEMS OF ARMS CONTROL
INTEREST

LONDON FOR AMB/EX, SOFIA FOR AMBASSADOR

1. ROBERT G. KAISER, IN WASHINGTON POST NEWS ANALYSIS,
COMMENTED THAT "SOVIET OFFICIALS HAVE RAISED QUESTION OF
WHETHER AN ADMINISTRATION IN WHICH BRZEZINSKI IS SUCH AN
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IMPORTANT FIGURE REALLY RECOGNIZES BENEFITS OF SUPERPOWER
COOPERATION. TO EXTENT MEN IN KREMLIN DOUBT AMERICA'S
INTEREST IN COOPERATION, SUPERPOWER RELATIONS ARE LIKELY
TO SUFFER, WHATEVER JUSTIC: OF THOSE DOUBTS., AMONG
FACTORS KAISER CITED AS CONTRIBUTING TO NEW TENSIONS
B:TWEEN U.S. AND SOVIET UNION WAS CONFLICTING DEFINITIONS
OF "SUPERPOWER EQUALITY." HE EXPLAINED THAT U.S. HAS

GRANTED SOVIET UNION "EQUAL STATUS AS STRATEGIC POWER -- THAT IS BASIS OF FIRST STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION AGREEMENTS. HOWEVER, CARTER ADMINISTRATION AND BROAD SPECTRUM OF AMERICAN POLITICAL LEADERS DO NOT GRANT SOVIETS RIGHT TO INSERT THEIR POWER IN VOLATILE POLITICAL SITUATIONS FAR FROM TRADITIONAL SOVIET SPHERE OF INFLUENCE. FROM AMERICAN POINT OF VIEW, THIS MAY BE PRUDENT AND JUSTIFIED.

FROM SOVIET POINT OF VIEW IT IS DOUBLE STANDARD." KAISER SAID "U.S. HAS NEVER HAD TO LIVE WITH OVERALL EQUALITY, AND PROSPECTS OF IT OBVIOUSLY DISCOMFITS MANY AMERICAN LEADERS. CARTER HAS SKIRTED THIS PROBLEM BY PLEDGING THAT U.S. WILL BE 'SECOND TO NONE.' SOVIETS EXPECT HIM TO ACCEPT ALSO THAT AMERICA WILL BE SUPERIOR TO ALL BUT ONE -- USSR." ANOTHER FACTOR CITED BY KAISER WAS "POLITICS OF SALT." HE SAID PRESIDENT, IN ANNAPOLIS SPEECH AND EARLIER, HAS ARGUED THAT EVENTS IN AFRICA WILL MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT TO COMPLETE SALT AGREEMENT AND SELL IT TO SENATE. LATEST PRAVDA STATEMENT RESPONDS BY ASKING WHY ADMINISTRATION HAS NOT BEEN SELLING NEW SALT AGREEMENT ALL ALONG, PREPARING SENATE AND PUBLIC FOR ITS FINAL COMPLETION, KAISER POINTED OUT. HE NOTED THAT SENATORS, INCLUDING GARY HART AND JOHN CULVER, HAVE MADE SAME POINT. "PRESS REPORTS BEGINNING LAST FALL NOTED STRONG SENATE OPPOSITION TO SALT, BUT PRESIDENT AND HIS ASSOCIATES HAVE CHOSEN NOT TO BEGIN CAMPAIGNING FOR UNCLASSIFIED

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AGREEMENT UNTIL IT IS COMPLETED," KAISER SAID. POST WRITER SAID TO LIST PROBLEMS IN U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR SOLVING THEM. FACT IS, HE ADDED, THEY MAY BE INSOLUBLE. "CARTER DOES NOT NOW HAVE OPTION OF FIRING BRZEZINSKI, DROPPING HIS HUMAN RIGHTS RHETORIC, ACCEPTING SUPERPOWER EQUALITY AND SOVIET-CUBAN ROLE IN AFRICA AND SUDDENLY TAKING UP POLITICAL CUDGELS FOR SALT. NOR IS THERE ANY GOOD REASON TO BELIEVE THAT IF HE DID ALL THOSE THINGS, SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS WOULD SUDDENLY BECOME ROSY. 'OBJECTIVE REALITIES,' AS SOVIETS THEMSELVES MIGHT PUT IT, POINT IN ANOTHER DIRECTION." KAISER SUGGESTED THAT CHALLENGE TO BOTH U.S. AND SOVIET UNION IS TO FIND WAY TO CONTINUE COOPERATION IN WHAT BOTH REGARD AS CRUCIAL AREA -- ARMS LIMITATION -- WITHOUT SORT OF DETENTE THAT NIXON AND KISSINGER FIRST PRODUCED.

2. CRISTINE RUSSELL OF WASHINGTON STAR REPORTED THAT IN ABSENCE OF AGREEMENT ON SATELLITE-DESTROYING SYSTEMS, U.S. PLANS TO PURSUE "VIGOROUSLY" DEVELOPMENT OF ITS OWN KILLER SATELLITE CAPABILITY. RUSSELL SAID PROBLEM OF ANTI-SATELLITE ACTIVITY WAS ONE AREA ADDRESSED IN NEW NATIONAL POLICY FOR MILITARY AND CIVILIAN SPACE

PROGRAMS THAT HAS BEEN APPROVED BY PRESIDENT CARTER. POLICY WAS DEVELOPED BY NSC COMMITTEE, CHAIRED BY DEFENSE SECRETARY HAROLD BROWN, WHICH STUDIED SPACE PROGRAMS FOR MORE THAN YEAR AND CONSULTED 20 FEDERAL AGENCIES. HAROLD BENEDICT OF ASSOCIATED PRESS SAID CARTER ADMINISTRATION IS WARNING SOVIET UNION THAT IT MUST AGREE TO BAN ON KILLER SATELLITES OR U.S. WILL NOT HESITATE TO ESCALATE ARMS RACE IN SPACE. "WE'RE WORLD'S MOST TECHNICALLY ADVANCED NATION,, ADMINISTRATION

OFFICIAL SAID. "WE CAN ACHIEVE SYSTEM THAT IS OF HIGHER QUALITY AND BETTER THAN THEIRS." HE SAID HE HOPED TWO COUNTRIES WOULD AGREE TO CURB ANTI-SATELLITE SYSTEMS BEFORE SUPERPOWERS ENGAGE IN NEW AND "UNHEALTHY" SPACE UNCLASSIFIED

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ARMS RACE THAT COULD COST EACH NATION BILLIONS OF DOLLARS. BRIEFING OFFICER, WHO ASKED NOT TO BE IDENTIFIED, DECLINED TO DISCUSS WHAT TRANSPIRED DURING ANTI-SATELLITE SYSTEMS DISCUSSIONS IN HELSINKI, NOR WOULD HE SAY IF WARNING HAD BEEN DELIVERED TO SOVIETS DURING DISCUSSIONS, BENEDICT REPORTED. AP REPORTER REPORTED THAT ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL SAID SOVIETS "IN ONE SENSE ALREADY HAVE CAPABILITY" SHOWN BY TESTS IN WHICH THEY HAVE KNOCKED SEVERAL OF THEIR OWN SATELLITES OUT OF SKY. HE SAID HE DID NOT KNOW HOW CLOSE SOVIET SYSTEM WAS TO BECOMING OPERATIONAL, BENEDICT ADDED. ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL SAID IT WILL BE SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF TIME BEFORE U.S. CAN TEST ITS OWN KILLER SATELLITE SYSTEM. BENEDICT SAID CARTER NATIONAL SPACE POLICY STATEMENT DECLARED THAT WITHOUT AN AGREEMENT U.S. WILL DEVELOP "CONTINGENCY REACTION CAPABILITY WHICH CAN EFFECTIVELY DETECT AND REACT TO THREATS TO U.S. SPACE SYSTEMS." NEW POLICY IS DEDICATED TO CONTINUING U.S. TECHNOLOGICAL SUPREMACY IN SPACE, WITH STRONG EMPHASIS ON MILITARY SYSTEMS TO COUNTER POSSIBLE SOVIET THREATS, BENEDICT SAID.

3. SYNDICATED COLUMNISTS ROWLAND EVANS AND ROBERT NOVAK, IN WASHINGTON POST, SAID JUNE 5 TELEGRAM FROM AMBASSADOR RODNEY KENNEDY-MINOTT IN STOCKHOLM TO DEPARTMENT TOUCHED OFF REPERCUSSIONS "THAT SHOW HOW EAGERLY FAVOR OF HENRY A. KISSINGER IS STILL SOUGHT." EVANS AND NOVAK SAID AMBASSADOR REPORTED "IN EXULTATION" THAT KISSINGER, DURING VISIT TO STOCKHOLM, "NOT ONLY ENDORSED U.S. FOREIGN POLICY IN GENERAL BUT ALSO EMERGING SALT TWO TREATY." KISSINGER, WHEN INFORMED OF TELEGRAM, SAID AMBASSADOR "HAD EXAGGERATED HIS POSITION IN ONE STANCE AND MISUNDERSTOOD IT IN ANOTHER," EVANS AND NOVAK REPORTED. "FROM SIEVE-LIKE STATE DEPARTMENT, AMBASSADOR'S EFFUSIVE REPORT FLOWED INTO UNCLASSIFIED

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STREETS OF WASHINGTON. REPUBLICANS RESPONSIBLE FOR
DESIGNING THEIR PARTY'S FOREIGN POLICY -- READING KENNEDY-
MINOTT WITHOUT BENEFIT OF KISSINGER'S EXPLANATION -- WERE
MORTIFIED.... EVEN IF KISSINGER WERE AN INNOCENT VICTIM
OF THIS INCIDENT, AS IS ENTIRELY POSSIBLE, AMBASSADOR'S
JUBILATION AND REPUBLICAN DISMAY SHOW WITH WHAT INTENSE
SCRUTINY KISSINGER'S WORDS STILL ARE WEIGHED. BOTH SIDES
BELIEVE HE MAY ULTIMATELY DETERMINE WHETHER SALT TWO IS
RATIFIED BY SENATE." VANCE

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